

## WILLIAM FRAZIER HOUSE/SHOP

153 EAST MAIN STREET

Number 153 East Main Street has its two-bay entrance facade fronting the north side of East Main Street, halfway between Lincoln Road and Center Street in Westminster. Probably built by one William Frazier, silversmith, around 1820, the narrow house is almost identical to the Beaver House, located across the street at no. 126 East Main Street. Despite its small size, Frazier clearly had a trained eye, as his house is perfect. It is impeccably executed, and is very cleverly designed; rather than try to compete with its larger neighbor, no. 151, Frazier's house continues 151's lines, almost acting as a better built extension. Their windows are perfectly aligned, their cornices run together, their roofs have the same pitch. Yet the buildings are still separate - Frazier saw no need to echo his neighbor's one-bay entrance porch, relying instead on his building's solid-void relationship and overall proportions for effect. His plan worked, for as small as 153 may be, one's eye somehow still seeks out its 5-course common bond facade.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

William Frazier House/Shop

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

153 East Main Street (MD 32)

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

— PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

— BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

— IN PROCESS

— BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

— UNOCCUPIED

— WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

— YES: UNRESTRICTED

— NO

#### PRESENT USE

— AGRICULTURE

— COMMERCIAL

— EDUCATIONAL

— ENTERTAINMENT

— GOVERNMENT

— INDUSTRIAL

— MILITARY

— MUSEUM

— PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— RELIGIOUS

— SCIENTIFIC

— TRANSPORTATION

— OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert G. Stouch

Telephone #: 876-3311

STREET & NUMBER

155 East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 248

Folio #: 535

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Number 153 East Main Street faces the north side of that street halfway between Lincoln Road and Center Street in Westminster. Its two 2-bay facades (the east and west walls are party walls) are simple yet effective. The entrance (south) facade is laid in five course common bond above a low roughly coursed fieldstone foundation and below a low-pitched, gable, silvery-painted tin roof, finished by a plain two-part entablature (The entablature, indeed the whole roof, is a continuation of no. 151 East Main, CARR 143.) There are two double-hung sash windows on the second floor, with two-over-two panes; windows are decorated with white wooden sills, while louvered shutters, and three course gauged flat arches. The two ground-floor bays are aligned with the upper story's windows. The western bay is the entrance door - a four panel door beneath a narrow glass transom and a two-part bracketed entablature. To the east is a 2/2 window, treated similarly to those above, but with arches five courses high instead of three.

The building's north facade has a high basement (the house is built into a small hill) with a large metal bulkhead cellar entrance to the east of a single flight of wooden steps which lead to a shed-roofed porch. A six-panel door is sheltered by the porch, and a 6/6 window is located to the east. Above, are two windows - the eastern one is 6/6 paned, the western 2/2.

The house has only two facades, as its east and west walls, are party walls with its neighbors, nos. 151 and 155 East Main Street.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

**SPECIFIC DATES**

c. 1820

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

In reading the list of residents and their occupations in Katharine Shellman's 1822-32 Diary, it is easy to get the impression that everyone in town either ran a tanyard or a tavern. This impression could lead one into believing that the City was strictly utilitarian. However, there also existed, at that time, one "William Frazier, silversmith" who probably lived in the building now numbered 153 East Main. Silversmithing must not have been a very lucrative profession, as his house is a narrow two bays wide, being almost identical to the Beaver house across the street, no. 126. (Beaver was also an artist, a sculptor.)

Despite its small size, Frazier clearly had a trained eye, as his house is perfect. It is impeccably executed, and is very cleverly designed: rather than try to compete with its larger neighbor, no. 151, Frazier's house continues 151's lines, almost acting as an extension. Their windows are perfectly aligned, their cornices run together, their roofs have the same pitch. Yet the buildings are still separate - Frazier saw no need to echo his neighbor's (well handled) one-bay entrance porch, relying instead on his building's solid-void relationship and overall proportions for effect. His plan worked, for as diminutive as 153 may be, one's eye somehow still seeks it out.

How Frazier took and passed title, however, is mystery. An early deed for the adjacent property notes that one "Thomas Gist" owned our land - and indexing reveals that, indeed, Gist bought lot 39 from Jacob Sherman on August 7, 1815 for \$300 (Frederick County Deed Book JS 2, Page 225). However, then a gap appears until the Carroll County records show one Joshua Jones selling lot 30 to William Gumbine for \$1000 on April 26, 1854 (16/359). Joshua Jones does not appear elsewhere in the land records of Frederick or Carroll Counties. However, the title is clear from now on. E.F. Crout, the executor of Grumbine, sold the lot to John Monroe on March 13, 1863 (29/417), who sold the house only to Eliza Shreeve on December 30, 1885 (64/84): the standard lot is 60' x 198' - Shreeve bought 27' x 198'. Her trustee, C. E. Nusbaum sold to Richard W. Barnes on March 23, 1920 (135.486). Another death - Barnes' heirs, W. Hammond and Raymond, sold to Ruth Weller on April 11, 1941 (175/255). Miss Weller then sold the place to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore (October 9, 1952, 214/158) who kept title until selling to the present owner on July 1, 1955, 248/535.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being the westerly half of lot 39 in the town of New London, later incorporated into Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

December, 1976

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

420/0



CARR-386A

42%

B-20

CARR-386A

153 E. Main St.

Watkins

S. Jacobs 1/77

C. Webb





CARR 386A, 387

155, 153 E. Main St.

Wentworth

NE *juvenile*

• 2/77 C. Weeks